

February 24, 1976

SENATOR SYAS: I'm not going to be very long on this bill. I was one of them, in this Legislature at the time this constitutional amendment come up to go into annual sessions, that voted against putting it on the ballot. But then I resigned myself to the fact that I figured well maybe I am wrong, maybe this will work. I was hopeful, really, that it would work, but it didn't. Constantly this Legislature has not chosen to use restraint on the introduction of bills. They cut down on how many a Senator can introduce, ten. That was a long hard job so then the committees did ... introduced the bills for them, so it was a sham. Now ... so there was another move, it's done every year at least the chairmen know about it, they're called into session and somebody in this Legislature wants to do what? Well in order to get around the 90 and 60 days what they always approached on this around, but it hasn't gotten by yet as I know of ... I know it hasn't.... Senator Luedtke, in all fairness to him, he's been one that has fought it even though he's on the other side, that is to have the ... to get around the 90 and 60 days ... have public hearings which do ... all day ... which do not count as a legislative day and then have the Legislature. As I say that's a maneuver that's always been put forth but has never happened. That would be getting around the 90 and 60 days. Of course, I hope that will never take place.

Now right now, doesn't it seem rather silly. We are holding public hearings yet today. We're in executive meetings of the various committees yet today. We are going to kill or especially put out bills on General File that absolutely have no chance of ever being debated this session and are therefore dead. Isn't that a waste of effort? Well Ernie, Senator Chambers says no but I say yes. Unless the only chance ... some of these bills that we're still hearing and going to put out on General File have to be debated and passed this session is the fact that if some Senator picks it up as one of his bills. Other than that we will go home with at least two or three hundred bills on the board. I must admit that's not bad. Sometimes I've always felt that the Legislature should be given credit for what they don't do rather than what they do do. Maybe leaving two or three hundred bills on the floor ... on General File will be the proper thing that we should do.

I just wish to say that we had 175 bills when we came in here this session. We had new budget bills. We could have spent almost all of our time taking care of the 175 bills plus the budget bills and that would have taken care of the session in itself, but, no, we had to proceed to introduce two or three hundred more bills I think it is. Now if I'm wrong on that figure I want to be corrected what it is right now. Closer to 500 Senator Barnett said. Well thank you.

I was hoping that this Legislature would, when we started the annual sessions, use restraint. It's merely words. It's a word in the dictionary that never is applied to us when it comes to introduction of bills.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.